

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

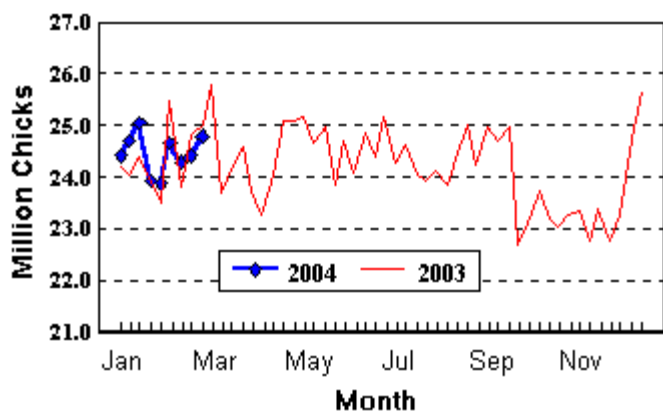
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 24.8 million during the week ending February 28, 2004. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week in 2003, but up 1 percent from the revised previous week, and included 2.8 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 28, 2004 were 220.4 million, up slightly from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.0 million, down 3 percent both from the corresponding week a year earlier, and also from the revised previous week. Of the total hatch, 2.8 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.3 percent.

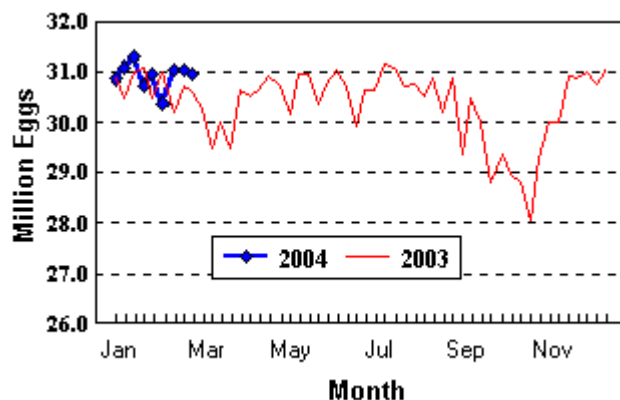
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.9 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending February 28, 2004, up 1 percent from both the same period last year, and also from the revised previous week.

Week Ending	NET PLACEMENTS			CHICKS HATCHED			EGGS SET		
	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	% Change
	<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>		
Jan. 24	23,950	23,942	100	25,618	25,486	99	31,087	30,728	99
Jan. 31	23,524	23,910	102	25,325	25,719	102	30,468	30,944	102
Feb. 7	25,475	24,701	97	25,519	25,821	101	30,994	30,374	98
Feb. 14	23,806	24,306	102	25,709	25,491	99	30,194	31,055	103
Feb. 21	24,856	24,458	98	25,149	25,694	102	30,762	31,033	101
Feb. 28	25,035	24,802	99	25,645	25,002	97	30,603	30,948	101

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2003-2004



EGGS SET, 2003 - 2004



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2004

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb		24-Jan	31-Jan	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	
Alabama	29,171	29,273	29,778	30,416	107	22,008	22,264	21,502	21,695	20,929	21,906	108
ARKANSAS	30,374	31,055	31,033 *	30,948	101	23,942	23,910	24,701	24,306	24,458 *	24,802	100
Delaware	3,721	3,703	2,976 *	3,091	88	5,397	5,369	4,730	4,183	5,126 *	4,512	90
Florida	1,364	1,354	1,363	1,359	84	1,561	1,603	1,859	1,689	1,956 *	1,425	81
Georgia	33,308 *	32,887	33,334 *	33,352	104	25,937	25,636	25,821	25,613	25,969 *	26,370	103
Kentucky	7,099	7,013	7,034 *	6,974	108	5,744	5,254	5,582	4,545	5,642 *	5,973	108
Maryland	8,570	8,930	8,846	8,854	94	4,698	5,461	5,657	6,394	5,302 *	5,815	98
Mississippi	19,049 *	19,229	19,179	19,061	100	16,314	16,402	16,598	16,309	16,524	16,379	105
N. Carolina	18,185 *	18,385	18,610	18,615	99	13,863	14,303	14,056	14,246	14,067	14,229	99
Oklahoma	6,338	6,357	6,519 *	6,461	101	4,648	5,250	4,902	4,916	4,369	4,843	100
Pennsylvania	3,722	3,611 *	3,693 *	3,755	110	2,533	2,532	2,646	2,676 *	2,502 *	2,641	109
S. Carolina	3,638	3,488	3,767	3,810	78	4,308	4,204	4,162	4,154	4,154	3,795	121
Texas	14,785	14,976	14,949	15,032	101	11,865	12,098	12,165	12,172	12,211	12,107	104
Virginia	6,363	6,308	6,417	6,520	97	4,779	4,751	5,634	5,099	4,925	4,890	84
CA, LA, MO, TN, WV	20,995 *	20,965	21,191	21,679	106	17,918	19,061	18,897 *	18,858 *	18,508 *	18,387	108
Total 2004	206,682 *	207,534 *	208,689 *	209,927		165,515	168,098	168,912 *	166,855 *	166,642 *	168,074	
Total 2003	202,772	202,449	204,584	206,547		166,045	166,420	164,887	165,871	164,469	163,548	
%Prev. Year	102	103	102	102		100	101	102	101	101	103	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004						13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 210 million eggs during the week ending February 28, 2004. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 28, 2004. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 28, 2004 were 1.51 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.